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- BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL -

- ANNUAL REPORT -

of the

- MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH -

for 1951.



TO THE CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE
BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Blackrod Urban District for the year 1951.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	2,392,394
Population (Preliminary Census) 1951.	3,151
Registrar General's Estimate	
of population mid 1951	3,124
No. of Inhabited Houses (at end of 1951)	1,036
Rateable Value	£12,880
Sum represented by a penny rate	£53.13.4d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Year	Live Births		Deaths all causes		Still-births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. Regd.	Rate per 1000 pop.	No. Regd.	Rate per 1000 pop.	No. Regd.	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of deaths regd.	Rate per 1000 total births	Total No. of deaths regd.	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of deaths regd.	Rate per 1000 live births
1951	43	13.8	37	11.8	1	23	Nil	Nil	1	23	Nil	Nil
1950	51	16.2	42	13.4	1	19	Nil	Nil	2	39	2	39
1949	46	14.7	43	13.7	1	21	Nil	Nil	2	43	-	-
1948	57	18.4	45	14.5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	7	122	-	-
1947	64	22.2	38	13.1	1	15	Nil	Nil	1	15	-	-
1946	54	19.0	46	16.2	3	52	Nil	Nil	6	111	-	-
Aver. 5 yrs. 1945-1950.	-	18.0	-	14.2	-	22	-	Nil	-	66	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1951.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	-
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-
Cancer of Stomach	2	-
Cancer of Breast	-	-
Cancer of other sites	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	1	3
Coronary disease, angina	2	1
Other Heart Diseases	6	7
Influenza	1	-
Pneumonia	2	-
Bronchitis	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Nephritis & nephrosis	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	1
	<u>20</u>	<u>17</u>

Note:- There were three transferable deaths which are included in the above.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were 127 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year compared with 34 during the previous year. Of these, 107 cases were Measles. During the first three months of the year there was a mild epidemic of Measles and during this period 101 cases of Measles were notified.

IMMUNISATION

The immunisation of children against Diphtheria is now undertaken by the Divisional Medical Officer of Health, and the children from the Blackrod District receive treatment at Westhoughton. Special transport is provided pending the provision of a clinic in Blackrod.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED

Age Periods - Years.

	Total cases all ages	0- 1-	1- 3-	3- 5-	5- 10-	10- 15-	15- 25-	25- 45-	45- 65 & over	Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	6	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	107	3	22	42	39	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	10	-	3	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total	127	2	25	51	44	1	-	2	1	-	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA
(National Assistance Act, 1948)

No applications received.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS

There is a practising Midwife in the District, and a Nurse from Westhoughton comes in Blackrod daily.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

For Smallpox - No provision

For other Infectious Disease - By arrangement with the Divisional Health Office, cases of Infectious Disease are sent to the nearest Hospital (on the list) that can accept accommodation.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Public Health Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer, and a Sanitary Inspector who is also Surveyor.

A Visiting Nurse is provided by the County.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Ambulance facilities for all cases are controlled by the Divisional Health Office, Leigh, and the needs for this District are met by the Ambulance Station at Horwich.

MORTUARY

The Mortuary situated at the Cemetery is sufficient for the needs of the District.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION 1951.

Water Supply

- I. An adequate supply of water has been available throughout the year, and for a little over 8 months the reservoir has been full or overflowing. At no time during the year has the reservoir been more than 7 ft. below the maximum water line.
- II. The quality of the water when passed into supply has been entirely satisfactory. Of the nine samples taken during the year for bacteriological examination, five were taken as the water passed into supply, and in each case no evidence was found of any bacterial contamination. Of the remaining four samples, these were taken from the reservoir, and two of these samples were free from bacterial contamination, in the remaining two samples bacterial pollution was found. As the water leaves the reservoir it is chlorinated before being passed into supply. This plant is continuous in operation, and the dosage of chlorine is adjusted in accordance with the flow of water. The actual dosage is recorded on a chart recorder, and daily checks are made with a comparator, and adjustments made to the dosage as required. No chemical analysis has been taken during the year.
- III. As a precaution against plumbo solvent action only 'tinned' lead pipes are used for water supply. No samples have been submitted for analysis for lead contamination.
- IV. There has been no indication of any contamination of the water supply during the year, and it has not been necessary to take any steps to deal with any problems of this kind.
- V. The number of houses which are supplied with a piped water supply from public mains, are as follows-
- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| (a) | Direct to houses | - 1,035 | - 3,015 | persons |
| (b) | Standpipes | - Nil | - Nil | " |

Bulk quantities of water are supplied by agreement to Adlington U.D.C. and Wigan R.D.C.

The source of supply is Upland Surface Water and Springs obtained from the Council Gathering Grounds situated in the Horwich U.D. Area, and the water is stored in an impounding reservoir.

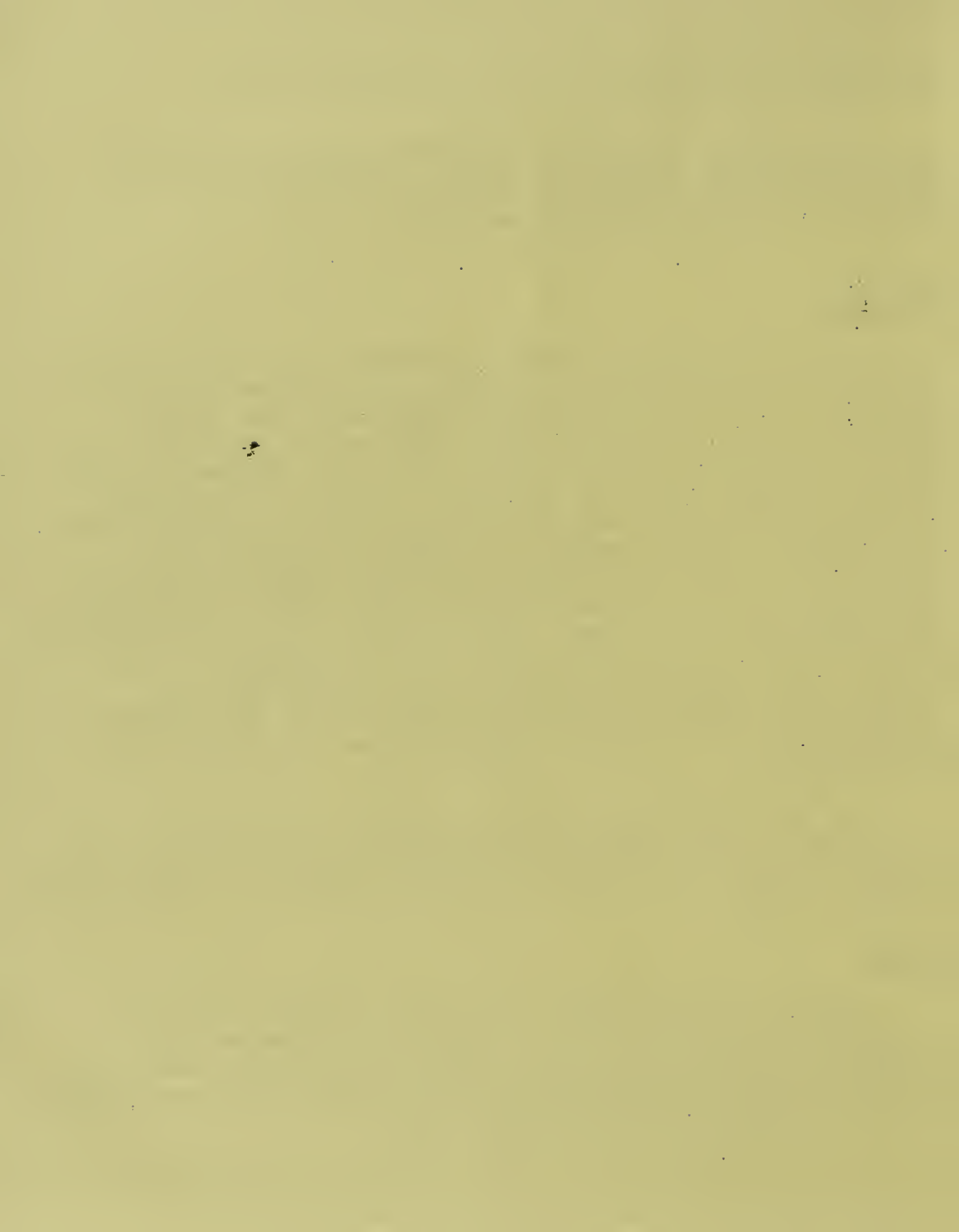
SEWERAGE

In this Authority broad irrigation is the method used for the treatment of sewage, and the bulk of the sewage is treated at two main outfalls, one at Scot Lane and at Nightingale Farm. The sewage is first passed through retention tanks where the grosser solid matter settles out, the effluent is then distributed over the land for final filtration before passing into the stream. In the report for 1950, attention was drawn to the fact that the retention tanks at Scot Lane were insufficient in capacity to deal with the sewage from this area, and that solid matters were being passed through the distribution pipes and discharged on the land. Also in that report it was stated that an improvement scheme for these works was in the course of preparation. No further progress has been made with this Scheme.

At the Nightingale Farm outfall, the tendency to flooding in periods of prolonged heavy rain is still acute, and the distribution system requires reorganising at this point.

FOOD.

Regular inspections are made at Shops and Food Preparing Premises, and all persons concerned with handling, preparation and storage of food for sale are advised of the requirements of the Model Bye-Laws which have been adopted by the Authority.



There are no slaughter houses being used in the District at the present time. All carcass meat to Butchers is supplied by the Ministry of Food from Slaughter Houses outside this area. Inspections are made of retail meat shops, and there has been no occasion when any meat has been found unfit for human consumption.

No ice-cream is manufactured in the District. Nine premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, and in each case only wrapped ice-cream is sold.

34 Samples of Milk were taken from Producers or Producer Retailers, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for analysis. 5 of these samples were reported to be infected by Tubercle Bacilli.

SCAVENGING OF STREETS

Class III Roads and District Roads are scavenged at regular intervals by the District Council. Other Classified Roads are scavenged by the Lancashire County Council who are the Highway Authority for the District.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

No. of Premises Visited - 220.

Defects or Nuisances Discovered - 54.

Notices served -

Informal 54

Statutory 30

Legal Proceedings taken - Nil.

In the majority of cases where complaints have been made, or nuisances discovered, the cause is due to the lack of proper maintenance of house property. The difficulties of obtaining adequate materials, and the present high cost of repairs is making Owners more reluctant to carry out essential repairs, and in many cases only after the serving of Statutory Notices are repairs undertaken. A large proportion of houses in the District are of great age, sub-standard, and are

lacking such amenities as hot water supply, bath, ventilated food store. Many of this type of houses have been so neglected over the years, that the structures are now in such a state of disrepair that they could not with reasonable expense, be rendered fit, and when the tenants can be rehoused these houses will be subject to Demolition Procedure.

Demolition Orders have been served on six houses, and four of the six tenants have been rehoused in Council Houses. One tenant has obtained laternative accommodation on his own account, and one tenant is still occupying the premises, and will be rehoused when a suitable house becomes available.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no trades in operation as Offensive Trades in the District.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Domestic refuse is collected and removed by direct labour, one motor vehicle being used for this purpose. Owing to the acute shortage of suitable labour it has not been possible to maintain a weekly collection over the year, and during the summer period and latter part of the year, collections have been on a fortnightly basis. This arrangement, whilst not entirely satisfactory has not caused any great inconvenience to the public, and no accumulation of refuse has been observed.

Waste paper has been collected throughout the year, and this paper has been baled and sold to licensed Merchants.

SCHCOLS

There are three Junior Schools and one Modern Secondary School in the District. The sanitary accommodation is satisfactory at two of the Junior Schools and at the Modern Secondary School, there being ample flush down type closets, and urinal accommodation for

the boys available. At Scot Lane, the sanitary accommodation at this School is unsatisfactory. Trough closets are still in use which are in an unsatisfactory condition. The attention of the Managers has been drawn to the unsatisfactory conditions at this School, but no attempt has yet been made as far as I am aware, to remedy this defect.

BAKE HOUSES

There is one Retail Bakehouse in the District which is satisfactory for the amount of trade carried out.

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS

Number in the District 10.

Rayon Processing - 1.
Weaving Shed - 1.
Agricultural Equipment - 1.
Clogger & Boot Repairer - 1.
Joiner - 1.

Number of Inspections - 10.

CONVENIENCES IN THE DISTRICT

Two Public Conveniences are provided, and these are situated at two of the busiest road junctions. The accommodation provided consists of 1 - 2 stall urinal and 1 W.C. for the Men and 1 W.C. for Women in each Convenience.

Privy Middens - 21.
Closets attached to these Middens - 31.
No. of Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens) - Nil.
No. of Fresh Water Closets - 996.
No. of Waste Water Closets - Nil.
No. of houses at which Movable Ash Bins have been substituted for food receptacles - 2.
1 Privy Midden has been converted, and 2 water closets provided.

HOUSES

The Council have completed and tenanted 24 houses during the year. 20 of these houses are 2 Bedroom types 2 - 3 Bedroom and 2 - 4 Bedroom types. A further 18 houses are under construction.

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT

The continued building of new houses to provide alternative accommodation for people living in unfit houses which would be condemned immediately the tenants removed, the continued maintenance of defective house properties to maintain them in a wind and weathertight condition, and as soon as adequate materials become available, the reconditioning of sub-standard houses. The conversion of existing privy middens and the provision of a bin scheme to ensure that all refuse bins are maintained in a fit condition.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council's Officers for their kind and valued co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

L. UNSWORTH.

M.O.H.

Dalton House,
Westhoughton.

9th June, 1952.

